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26 September 1963

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

26 September 1963

DAILY BRIEF

***Dominican Republic:** Armed forces leaders who ousted President Juan Bosch on 25 September say they will establish a "rightist regime" under a provisional civilian government.

Leaders of all the non-Communist opposition parties except the moderate leftist Revolutionary Social Christian Party (PRSC) are meeting at the armed forces' invitation to recommend members of the temporary regime, which military leaders say will be headed by "an eminent civilian not connected with militant political parties."

Bosch and his cabinet members have been under military custody in the palace, but the deposed President probably will join his wife in Puerto Rico shortly. The military leaders have dissolved congress and abrogated the constitution. All pro-Castro and Communist parties have been banned, their headquarters occupied, and a roundup of extreme leftist leaders is underway.

No significant public reaction has yet been noted except milling crowds in Santo Domingo. A curfew from 1800-0600 has been imposed. However, the possibility of violence or other extreme leftist action against the new regime cannot be discounted.

The chief instigator of the takeover apparently was army Colonel Elias Wessin y Wessin, with key

support coming from air force Commander Atila Luna. Wessin y Wessin previously has been described by US military officials as a tough and virulent anti-Communist backed by a group of the more reactionary young officers. It was Bosch's demand early on the morning of 25 September that Wessin y Wessin be removed for antigovernment plotting that led to the President's ouster.

The degree of civilian participation in the takeover is unclear. However, would-be strongmen Antonio Imbert and Luis Amiana Tio--only survivors of ex-dictator Rafael Trujillo's assassins--signed the initial military communiqué. Also, police chief Belisario Peguero, an Imbert crony, apparently collaborated with Wessin y Wessin.

Establishment of an extreme rightist regime such as indicated in initial military statements would guarantee popular distaste for the new government. Similarly, none of the politicians who have agreed to select the civilian government enjoy any sizable popular support. Moreover, the removal of Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party and the PRSC from the political scene could easily redound in favor of the extreme leftists as the only supporters of radical reform.

Venezulean President Betancourt, a close friend of Bosch, was visibly shaken by the news of the Dominican action, according to US Ambassador Stewart in Caracas. It is evident, Stewart commented, that Betancourt is increasingly concerned that the successful Dominican coup might have a profound impact on his own situation. Venezuelan military leaders have long been displeased with Betancourt's failure to take strong actions in the face of widespread terrorism.

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Communist China: (The grain harvest in Communist China it appears will be mediocre for the second year in a row, although not comparable to the disastrous years of 1959-61.)

[REDACTED]

the 1963 grain harvest will probably be slightly better than 1962's or total about 180 million tons. This figure is close to present US intelligence estimates for Chinese grain output in 1962 and 1963.)

(The regime had been indicating high expectations for agriculture as late as 27 August but on 12 September the Chinese press reported only that the 1963 harvest "may" be better than 1962's.)

[REDACTED]

(The prospects for this year's fall crops appear mediocre at best. Planting in the south was affected by a persistent drought and in the north and northeast by severe flooding. The 1963 spring harvest, affected by a prolonged drought in south and floods in central China, is estimated to have been poorer than 1962's early harvest.)

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(Recent sharp regime criticism of local cadre and peasant attitudes suggest, however, that an additional important factor was the failure to secure the expected production response through the labor incentives and inputs provided.)

(The food shortage has been held in check by a substantial improvement in the output of subsidiary crops --mainly vegetables--and by 5.5 million tons of grain bought for delivery in 1963. A contract with Canada announced in August provides China with the option of buying up to 5 million tons of grain prior to mid-1966.)

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Brazil: The extreme left in Brazil, in the light of the present unsettled conditions, is increasing pressure on President Goulart and Congress for actions favorable to it.

In a "manifesto" issued on 23 September the Communist-dominated General Workers Command (CGT) demanded immediate adoption of a radical program by the government. These groups have been threatening for some time to call a general strike if demands are not met. Goulart may be cooperating with the CGT in its demands.

An immediate goal of the extreme left seems to be the removal of General Peri Bevilacqua from the key Second Army Command in Sao Paulo. Bevilacqua has defied the CGT strike threat, labeling the CGT and other leftist labor groups "enemies of democracy and traitors."

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soon, and if this does happen, it could precipitate a strong reaction by conservative elements. [REDACTED] 50X1
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NOTES

Haiti: The recent government defeat of Haitian exiles under General Leon Cantave in the northeast was so decisive as probably to shatter all exile hopes of overthrowing the Duvalier regime soon. Duvalier probably is now in a stronger position than at any time in recent months. Determined to consolidate his power further, Duvalier may well begin another purge of elements in his regime he considers unreliable.

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*Colombia: Thirty-three bombs were exploded by terrorists throughout the country on the night of 24-25 September--16 in Bogota. The residence of President Valencia was slightly damaged, as was that of the [redacted] but targets seem to have been selected indiscriminately. The terrorism is part of the continuing effort of Colombian extremists, under Communist influence, to demonstrate the weakness of the Valencia government in the face of organized terrorism such as that prevalent in Venezuela.

[redacted]

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